



APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT

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Invention: TYPE a PLATELET-DERIVED GROWTH FACTOR RECEPTOR GENE

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SPECIFICATION



FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to genes which encode receptor proteins for Platelet-Derived Growth Factor (PDGF), particularly to those human genes encoding receptor proteins which preferentially bind the major form of human PDGF which is found in platelets. This invention also relates to synthesis of products of such PDGF receptor genes by recombinant cells, and to the manufacture and use of certain other novel products enabled by the identification and cloning of DNAs encoding these receptors.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Genes encoding growth factors and their receptors have been implicated in the regulation of normal cell growth and development. There is also increasing evidence that genetic alterations affecting expression of such genes can contribute to altered cell growth associated with malignancy. The normal homologues of some oncogenes code for membrane-spanning growth factor receptors with tyrosine kinase activity (2, 3). Other oncogenes appear to act in pathways of growth factor activated cell proliferation as well (4). Thus, increased knowledge of growth factor regulatory systems in general is expected to provide better understanding of genes critically involved in both normal growth control and neoplasia.

Platelet-Derived Growth Factor (PDGF) is of particular importance because it is a major connective tissue cell mitogen which is thought to play a major role in normal wound healing. Further, the abnormal expression of PDGF has been implicated not only in cancers, but also in a variety of histopathologic states including arteriosclerosis, arthritis, and fibrotic diseases (23).

PDGF consists of a disulfide-linked dimer of two polypeptide chains, designated A and B. There is evidence for the natural occurrence of all three possible dimeric structures containing A or B chains or both (1, 25, 26). The various dimeric forms of the growth factor are called "isoforms". A variety of normal and neoplastic cells appear to specifically express either the A or B chains. Nevertheless, the most significant human isoform for physiological regulatory processes is believed to be the one isolated from human platelets, namely the AB heterodimer (i.e., a dimer containing one A and one B chain; see reference 24).

The PDGF-A and B chains have distinguishable properties (37). The A chain is much more efficiently secreted and exhibits lower specific mitogenic activity than the B chain. The B chain gene of PDGF has been shown to be the normal human homologue of the simian sarcoma virus-derived *v-sis* oncogene. Moreover, there is accumulating evidence that expression of the B chain in cell types possessing PDGF receptors can drive such cells along the pathway to malignancy. The A chain is less potent than the B chain in inducing neoplastic transformation of cultured mouse (NIH/3T3) cells.

Recent studies have suggested the existence of two subtypes of the PDGF receptor (PDGF-R), on the basis of PDGF isoform binding and competition using mouse or human fibroblasts (27). These works are consistent with the hypothesis that there exists one receptor subtype which preferentially binds the B chain dimer, and another which efficiently binds all isoforms of the PDGF molecule. However, the results of these studies could not discriminate between two distinct possibilities with differing implications for the study and ultimate treatment of diseases involving such receptors: either these subtypes represent differently processed products of a single PDGF-R gene; or they are products of distinct genes.

Further, there have been conflicting findings concerning binding of different PDGF isoforms of the receptor produced by a previously identified human PDGF-R gene. Introduction of PDGF-R genes by expression vectors into different cell types devoid of PDGF receptors has been reported to lead either to preferential binding of PDGF-BB (14) or, alternatively, to efficient binding by all three isoforms (28). The basis of this discrepancy is not known.

Thus, there has been uncertainty concerning the ability of the known PDGF receptor

to respond to different PDGF isoforms, and to the
main AB heterodimer form of human PDGF, in
particular. Some reported differences might be
explained by cell specific differences in
5 post-translational processing of the product of
the known PDGF-R gene, or by the presence of
accessory proteins in certain cell types.
Alternatively, the different binding properties
reported in different studies might be explained
10 by the existence of two distinct genes encoding
different PDGF receptors.

In light of the complexities of PDGF
ligand and receptor activities described above,
and the related processes which are influenced
15 thereby, comprising both normal wound healing and
abnormal connective tissue conditions, including
neoplastic growth, arteriosclerosis, arthritis,
and fibrotic diseases, it is apparent that there
has been a need for methods and compositions and
20 bioassays which would provide an improved
knowledge and analysis of mechanisms of
connective tissue growth regulation, and,
ultimately, a need for novel diagnostics and
therapies based on the PDGF receptors involved
25 therein.

In particular, the observations above,
indicate a specific need for thorough
characterization of the genetic basis of PDGF

receptor production. Furthermore, it has been shown previously (5) that it is possible to identify and clone novel related members of the gene family encoding membrane-spanning growth factor receptors with tyrosine kinase activity, which comprises the known PDGF receptor gene and the *kit* and *fms* oncogenes, by exploiting the conserved tyrosine kinase coding region as a probe.

10 Accordingly, the present invention contemplates the application of methods of recombinant DNA technology to fulfill the above needs and to develop means for producing PDGF receptor proteins which appear to be the
15 predominant effectors of the main form of human PDGF. This invention also contemplates the application of the molecular mechanisms of these receptors related to healing and pathological processes.

20 In particular, it is an object of the present invention to identify and isolate the coding sequence of a novel human gene related to but distinct from the known PDGF-R gene, as well as from other members of the family of tyrosine
25 kinase genes comprising the PDGF-R, *kit*, and *fms* genes. Further, it is an object of this invention to develop the molecular tools needed

to establish the relative roles of the novel and known forms of PDGF receptor in physiological processes involving PDGF.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a development of recombinant DNA technology, which includes production of novel PDGF receptor (PDGF-
5 R) proteins, free of other peptide factors. Novel DNA segments, RNAs, and bioassay methods are also included.

The present invention in particular relates, in part, to DNA segments which encode
10 messenger RNAs (mRNAs) and proteins having structural and/or functional characteristics of a new human receptor within the subfamily of membrane-spanning tyrosine kinase receptor genes comprising the following known receptor genes:
15 the PDGF-R gene; colony stimulating factor one receptor (CSF1-R) gene (also known as a cellular form of the *fms* oncogene, *c-fms*); and a cellular form of the *kit* oncogene (*c-kit*) (see references 3, 6, and 7 for background).

20 More specifically, this invention includes DNA segments containing a genomic DNA sequence or a DNA sequence complementary to the mRNA transcribed from said genomic DNA (i.e., a "cDNA"), with a predicted protein product similar
25 in structure to other receptors of this growth factor receptor subfamily. Among these receptors, the predicted novel gene product

exhibits closest sequence homology to the known PDGF receptor.

Further, this novel product encoded by DNAs of this invention is coexpressed with the known PDGF receptor gene product in a variety of normal cell types. This protein product can bind to and be functionally activated by PDGF. However, the activities of different PDGF isoforms functionally distinguish the new product, herein designated the type α human PDGF receptor, from that of previously identified genes encoding receptors that can bind PDGF, including the known receptor previously call the PDGF receptor and herein designated as the type β PDGF receptor. Moreover, considerable evidence disclose herein indicates that this novel gene product, the type α PDGF receptor, is the main effector of activity for the most abundant form of PDGF in the human body.

In the practice of one embodiment of this invention, the DNA segments are capable of being expressed in suitable host cells, thereby producing the novel PDGF receptor proteins. This invention also relates to mRNAs produced as the result of transcription of the sense strands of the DNA segments of this invention. The invention further comprises novel bioassay methods for determining levels of expression in

human cells of the mRNAs and proteins produced from the genes related to DNA segments of the invention.

In a principal embodiment, the present invention comprises DNA segments encoding novel PDGF receptors, as exemplified by the following: a clone of genomic normal human thymus DNA, herein designated as the T11 genomic clone; human cDNA clones of cell mRNAs containing sequences contained in T11, designated HF1, HB6, EF17 and TR4; and related DNA segments which can be detected by hybridization to any of the above human DNA segments, which related segments encode receptor genes, wherein said genes do not include previously known PDGF-related receptor genes.

The human gene related to clone T11 are referred to hereinafter as "the T11 gene" and use of the term "T11" as an adjective is intended to include any of the above DNA segments of this invention, absent a specific reference to "the T11 genomic clone".

In another embodiment, this invention relates to a recombinant DNA molecule comprising a vector and a DNA of the present invention. These recombinant molecules are exemplified by molecules comprising genomic or cDNA clones related to the T11 gene and any of the following vector DNAs: a bacteriophage λ cloning vector;

or an expression vector capable of expressing inserted DNAs in mammalian cells.

In still another embodiment, the invention comprises a cell, preferably a mammalian cell, transformed with a DNA of the invention. Further, the invention comprises cells, including yeast cells and bacterial cells such as those of *E. coli* and *B. subtilis*, transformed with DNAs of the invention. According to another embodiment of the invention, the transforming DNA is capable of being expressed in the cell, thereby increasing the amount of PDGF-R protein encoded by this DNA, in the cell.

Still further, the invention comprises novel PDGF-R proteins made by expression of a DNA of the invention, or by translation of an RNA of the invention. These receptors can be used for functional studies, and can be purified for additional biochemical and functional analyses, such as qualitative and quantitative receptor binding assays.

In particular, these type α PDGF receptors may be used for the development of therapies for conditions involving abnormal processes involving PDGF and its receptors, by testing receptor binding and activation activities of potential analogs (either

antagonists or agonists) of the various PDGF isoforms, including the main form of human PDGF.

According to this aspect of the invention, the novel PDGF-R proteins can be
5 protein products of "unmodified" DNAs and mRNAs of the invention, or they can be modified or genetically engineered protein products. As a result of engineered mutations in the DNA sequences, modified PDGF-R proteins have one or
10 more differences in amino acid sequence from the corresponding naturally occurring "wild-type" proteins. These differences may impart functional differences to the modified gene products such as improvements in their
15 manufacturability or suitability for use in bioassays.

This invention also relates to novel bioassay methods for detecting the expression of genes related to DNAs of the invention.
20 According to one such embodiment, DNAs of this invention, particularly the most preferred DNAs, may be used as probes to determine specific levels of mRNAs related to type α PDGF receptors, without interference from mRNAs of known PDGF
25 receptor genes. Such bioassays may be useful, for example, for identification of various classes of tumor cells or of genetic defects in

connective tissue growth and/or the healing response.

This invention further comprises novel antibodies made against a peptide encoded by a
5 DNA segment of the invention or by a related DNA.
In this embodiment of the invention, the antibodies are monoclonal or polyclonal in origin, and are generated using PDGF receptor-related polypeptides from natural, recombinant or
10 synthetic chemistry sources. These antibodies specifically bind to a PDGF-R protein which includes the sequence of such polypeptide.
Preferably, these antibodies bind only to type α PDGF receptor proteins or, alternatively, only to
15 type β PDGF receptor proteins. Also, preferred antibodies of this invention bind to a PDGF receptor protein when that protein is in its native (biologically active) conformation.

Fragments of antibodies of this
20 invention, such as Fab or F(ab)' fragments, which retain antigen binding activity and can be prepared by methods well known in the art, also fall within the scope of the present invention.
Further, this invention comprises pharmaceutical
25 compositions of the antibodies of this invention, or active fragments thereof, which can be prepared using materials and methods for preparing pharmaceutical compositions for

administration of polypeptides that are well known in the art and can be adapted readily for administration of the present antibodies without undue experimentation.

5 These antibodies, and active fragments thereof, can be used, for example, for specific detection or purification of either the novel type α PDGF receptor, or, alternatively, of the known type β PDGF receptor. Such antibodies
10 could also be used in various methods known in the art for targeting drugs to tissues with high levels of PDGF receptors, for example, in the treatment of appropriate tumors with conjugates of such antibodies and cell killing agents.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Fig. 1 illustrates detection of gene fragments related to the oncogene *v-fms* and to the known mouse PDGF receptor in human placenta and thymus DNAs by Southern blot hybridization analyses.

Fig. 2 presents the restriction map of the novel *v-fms*-related gene (T11) and related human PDGF receptor cDNA clones.

Fig. 3 contains the nucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the novel type α PDGF receptor encoded by the T11 gene.

Fig. 4 depicts results of hydrophobicity analysis of human type α PDGF receptor and homologies of deduced amino acid sequences in comparison with the known type β PDGF receptor and other receptors.

Fig. 5 shows chromosome mapping of the type α PDGF receptor gene.

Fig. 6 is a comparison of mRNA species produced from the type α and β PDGF receptor genes.

Fig. 7 demonstrates specific detection of type α or type β proteins with peptide antisera in human cell lines or in monkey (COS-1) cells transformed with a T11 DNA in an expression vector.

Fig. 8 displays binding of (125 I-labeled) human PDGF to mouse cells (NIH/3T3), control COS-1 cells and COS-1 cells transformed with T11 or known PDGF-R cDNA expression vectors.

5 Fig. 9 demonstrates tyrosine autophosphorylation of type α and type β PDGF receptors in response to various isoforms of PDGF.

10 Fig. 10 shows preferential stimulation of DNA synthesis by PDGF isoform AB in various cells with higher levels of type α PDGF receptor than type β receptor.

15 Fig. 11 presents binding data for type α and type β PDGF receptors on (human 32D) cells transfected with vectors bearing the respective cDNAs, demonstrating that the type β receptor shows a strikingly lower affinity for the PDGF-AB form.

20 Fig. 12 illustrates the similar mitogenic responses to PDGF-BB by cells containing either type α or type β PDGF-R and the significantly lesser DNA synthesis response to PDGF-AB in the type β , compared to type α receptor containing cells.

Fig. 13 demonstrates equivalent
chemotactic cellular responses to PDGF-BB in cells
with type α or β PDGF-R, whereas PDGF-AB elicited
a considerably lower chemotactic response with
5 type β receptors than with type α receptors.

Figure 14 shows the effect of PDGF-AB
and PDGF-BB on inositol phosphate formation and
cytosolic calcium mobilization ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$) in cells
bearing type α and type β PDGF-R, with the type α
10 receptors again responding more efficiently to
PDGF-AB.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

The DNAs of this invention are exemplified by DNAs referred to herein as: the T11 genomic clone; and clones HF1, HB6, EF17 and
5 TR4, comprising human cDNA clones of cell mRNAs containing sequences included in the T11 genomic clone.

The T11 genomic clone and the TR4 cDNA clone are preferred DNAs of this invention.
10 A clone designated pT11-HP (a *Hind*III-*Pst*I 0.95-kbp fragment of genomic clone T11) and a particular restriction fragment from a T11 cDNA (3.5-kbp *Bam*HI fragment of TR4, including the whole coding region) are most preferred DNAs of this
15 invention.

The restriction enzyme digestion maps of cDNA clones HF1, HB6, EF17 and TR4, and their mapping relationships to genomic clone T11, are displayed in Fig. 2. The sense strand DNA
20 nucleotide sequence, and the predicted primary protein sequence encoded, are shown in Fig. 3 for the TR4 cDNA clone, the largest cDNA clone related to the T11 gene.

As described in the Experimental
25 Section, the T11 genomic clone comprises a clone of genomic fragment of normal human thymus DNA containing a 12-kbp sequence bounded by

recognition sites for the restriction enzyme
EcoRI, which fragment hybridized more strongly in
analyses by blot hybridization than other
fragments with DNA probes derived from the
5 tyrosine-kinase domains of both the viral
oncogene *v-fms* and the mouse cellular PDGF-R gene
(see Fig. 1). The T11 genomic clone contains
most of the blocks of sequences found in the mRNA
product of the T11 gene (i.e., the exons), in
10 addition to intervening gene sequences not found
in the mRNA (i.e., introns).

Other DNAs of this invention include the
recombinant molecules comprising T11-related
genomic or cDNA clones of this invention and any
15 of the following vector DNAs: a bacteriophage λ
cloning vector (exemplified by λ EMBL4 or λ gt11);
or a mammalian expression vector (such as the
pSV2 gpt vector into which the simian sarcoma
virus promoter was engineered) capable of
20 expressing inserted DNAs in mammalian (e.g., COS-
1) cells.

Genomic clone T11 DNA was isolated, by
standard gene cloning methods well known in the
art, from a genomic library constructed from
25 *EcoRI*-digested normal human thymus DNA which was
size-selected by sucrose gradients and cloned
into the λ EMBL-4 vector system. The λ T11 clone

was identified on the basis of hybridization with both v-*fms* and mouse PDGF-R probes only under relaxed but not stringent hybridization conditions. Further details of the cloning strategy and probes are provided below and in the following Experimental Section.

A plasmid containing the HF1 cDNA clone, designated pHF1, was isolated by standard, well known methods, from a normal human fibroblast cDNA library in the Okayama-Berg expression vector under stringent conditions using the 0.9-kbp *Hind*III-*Pst*I fragment of λ T11 which is a most preferred DNA of this invention. It contains a 3.9-kbp cDNA insert which hybridized to a 6.4-kb RNA transcript in normal human fibroblasts and contains a polyadenylation signal followed by a poly(A) tail at its 3' end. It also contains the coding sequence within the λ T11 DNA and 170 nucleotides related to CSF1-R and PDGF-R tyrosine kinase domains upstream of exon (a).

The cDNA clone λ HB6 was isolated by standard methods using the 0.4-kbp 5' end of clone HF1 to screen a human infant brain cDNA library in the λ gt11 vector.

Another cDNA clone, λ EF17, isolated by screening a human embryo fibroblast (M426 cell

line) cDNA library, prepared by random priming of DNA synthesis on mRNA template and cloning in the λ gt11 vector, with a 0.2-kbp 5' fragment of λ HB6 as a probe. A possible ATG initiation codon was identified within EF17.

The three overlapping clones (PHF1, λ HB6 and λ EF17) contain the entire coding region in addition to 138-bp 5' and ~3-kbp of 3' untranslated sequences (Fig. 2).

The cDNA clone TR4 was obtained using a 5' 0.2-kbp subfragment of λ EF17 to screen a M426 human embryo fibroblast cDNA library in a "phagemid" (phage and plasmid hybrid) vector (10). The 6.4-kbp TR4 cDNA clone includes an open reading frame beginning with a possible ATG initiation codon at nucleotide position 139 and extended to a TAA termination codon at position 3406 (see Figure 3). Moreover, the first 23 amino acid stretch displayed properties of a cleavable hydrophobic signal peptide (Fig. 3 & 4). The open reading frame was followed by ~3-kbp of untranslated sequences and a polyadenylation signal (AATAAA) located 25 nucleotides upstream from the poly(A) sequence at the 3' end of the cDNA.

cDNA expression plasmids were constructed using standard cloning methods well

known in the art, by introducing the T11-related
cDNA encompassing nucleotides 1 to 3454 (Fig. 3)
into the pSV2 gpt vector into which the simian
sarcoma virus long-terminal-repeat (LTR) had been
5 engineered as the promoter, as previously
described in detail (49).

DNAs and sense strand RNAs of this
invention can be employed, in conjunction with
protein production methods known in the art, to
10 produce cells expressing functional type α PDGF-R
protein from the novel gene in the absence of
other PDGF receptors. These novel receptors can
be used for functional studies in cells, such as
qualitative and quantitative receptor binding
15 assays.

Accordingly, one embodiment of this
aspect of this invention comprises a cell,
preferably a mammalian cell, transformed with a
DNA of the invention, wherein the transforming
20 DNA is capable of being expressed. Mammalian
cells (COS-1) transformed with the pSV2 gpt
vector carrying a T11-related cDNA were prepared
according to well-known methods and were shown to
express T11 gene products as 185 kd and 160 kd
25 species (Fig. 7B). These products were capable
of binding human PDGF isolated from platelet, as
illustrated in the Experimental Section below
(see, Fig. 8).

Additional work in the Experimental
Section demonstrates further that DNAs of this
invention can be used to reconstitute type α PDGF
receptor gene function in other cells free of
5 PDGF receptors, and that each receptor type, α or
 β , efficiently mediates major known PDGF
activities including mitogenic signal
transduction, chemotaxis and stimulation of
phosphoinositide turnover. Moreover, these
10 studies further establish the type α PDGF
receptor as the principal receptor for the main
form of human PDGF which is derived from
platelets.

Thus, by so using the DNAs of the
15 invention in gene expression methods, especially
the preferred TR4 cDNA clone listed herein, those
skilled in the art, without undue
experimentation, can construct cell systems which
fall within the scope of this invention, for
20 determining the mechanisms of PDGF regulatory
processes, as well as for production of large
amounts of the novel PDGF receptor protein.

This invention further comprises novel
bioassay methods for detecting the expression of
25 genes related to DNAs of the invention.
According to one such embodiment, DNAs of this
invention may be used as probes to determine
levels of related mRNAs. This embodiment is

exemplified by the comparison of mRNA species of
the T11 and known PDGF-R genes in normal and
tumor cells (Fig. 6). Total or polyadenylated
RNA was separated by denaturing gel
5 electrophoresis in formaldehyde (48),
transferred to nitrocellulose, and hybridized
under stringent conditions with ^{32}P -labeled
probes. The probes were prepared from any of the
following DNAs of this invention: clone pT11-HP
10 (0.95-kbp *HindIII*-*PstI* fragment of genomic clone
T11); or from T11 cDNA (3.5-kbp *BamHI* fragment of
TR4, including the whole coding region).

Therefore, by employing the DNAs and
RNAs of the invention in known hybridization
15 methods, especially the most preferred DNAs
listed herein, those skilled in the art, without
undue experimentation, can measure levels of
expression of type α PDGF-R gene without
interference from mRNA of type β PDGF-R gene or
20 other related oncogenes.

This invention also comprises novel
antibodies made against a peptide encoded by a
DNA segment of the invention or by other related
DNAs. This embodiment of the invention is
25 exemplified by rabbit antisera containing
antibodies which specifically bind to type α

PDGF-R protein or, in the alternative, to the known PDGF-R protein, herein designated type β .

Such type specific antisera were raised to synthetic peptides representing 15 amino acid sequences from the carboxyl-terminal regions of their respective PDGF-R proteins (residues 959-973 of the type α sequence displayed in Fig. 3, and corresponding residues 967-981 of the known type β sequence, as predicted by the respective cDNA sequences). These peptides were selected to meet the following criteria: lack of sequence relatedness between the two PDGF-R types (less than 50% sequence homology); relative hydrophilicity; and carboxyl-terminal location which is known to be associated with a higher likelihood of producing antibodies reactive with native proteins.

Antisera to peptides were prepared by chemically synthesizing the peptides, conjugating them to carrier (thyroglobulin), and injecting the conjugated peptides into rabbits with complete Freund's adjuvant, according to standard methods of peptide immunization.

These antibodies can be used for detection or purification of the protein products. Thus, Fig. 7 shows the use in Western blot experiments of two different rabbit antibodies [anti-T11 (PDGF-R type α) and anti-HPR

(PDGF-R type β)] raised against the corresponding type-specific peptides. As is evident from the figure, the appropriate PDGF-R types are specifically detected in various cells by
5 antisera from rabbits immunized with synthetic peptides.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

This section describes experimental work leading to the identification and cloning of a genomic sequence and cDNAs of a novel
5 receptor-like gene of the PDGF receptor/CSF-1 receptor subfamily. The gene gives rise to a 6.4-kb RNA transcript that is coexpressed in normal human tissues with the known 5.3-kb PDGF receptor mRNA. The new PDGF receptor gene was
10 localized to chromosome 4 at location 4q 11-12, consistent with the clustering of other genes of this receptor subfamily on ancestrally related chromosomes 4 and 5.

That the cloned cDNA is functional is
15 demonstrated by the observation that introduction (by transfection using a viral vector) of a cDNA of the novel gene into COS-1 cells leads to expression of proteins which are specifically detected with anti-serum directed against a
20 predicted peptide. Transfected but not control COS-1 cells demonstrate specific binding of ¹²⁵I-human PDGF, which is efficiently competed by all three PDGF isoforms, including the main AB form found in human platelets. In contrast,
25 expression of the known PDGF receptor cDNA in COS-1 cells leads to PDGF binding with a distinct pattern of competition by the same PDGF isoforms

characterized by a marked preference for PDGF form BB.

Further evidence that the new receptor gene encodes a distinct PDGF receptor derives from examination of human cells, originally free of PDGF receptors, in which PDGF-receptor activities are reconstituted by either type α or type β receptors introduced by transfection with vectors bearing the respective cDNAs. Cells with the type α receptors are significantly more responsive to PDGF-AB in all of the following PDGF-mediated cellular activities: tyrosine phosphorylation of the receptor gene product; stimulation of DNA synthesis and consequent cell proliferation; chemotaxis; phosphoinositide breakdown; and cytosolic calcium mobilization ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$).

Thus, while each type of reconstituted PDGF-R gene product independently elicits similar biochemical as well as biological responses to PDGF-BB, the type α PDGF-R is the preferred receptor for PDGF-AB, the principal isoform of human PDGF which is found in platelets. Accordingly, it follows that abnormalities in the structure or expression of the type α PDGF receptor could have profound pathological effects for which the present invention provides means of diagnosis and therapy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Detection of v-fms and PDGF receptor-related gene fragments in human placenta and thymus DNAs. Genomic DNA (20 µg) was digested with *EcoRI*, separated by electrophoresis in 0.8% agarose gels, and transferred to nitrocellulose paper (41). Hybridization to ³²P-labeled probes (42) was conducted in a solution of 50% or 30% formamide, 0.75 M NaCl, and 0.075 M sodium citrate, at 42°C (43). After hybridization, the blots were washed in 2 x SSC (0.3 M NaCl; 0.03 M sodium citrate) at room temperature, and then in 0.1 x or 0.6 x SSC at 50°C (stringent or relaxed condition, respectively). The v-fms probe was a 0.44-kbp *XhoI-BglIII* fragment encompassing nucleotides 3891 to 4419 of the v-fms oncogene (44). The mouse PDGF receptor probe was a 0.5-kbp *SinI-PvuI* fragment encompassing nucleotide 2490 to 2995 of its cDNA (6).

Molecular cloning of the λT11 genomic fragment as well as cDNAs of T11 and PDGF-R genes. Libraries from which specific cDNA clones (in parentheses) were isolated included: human fibroblast mRNAs in the Okayama-Berg vector (pHF); human infant brain mRNAs in λgt11 (λHB); human embryonic fibroblast random primed mRNAs in λgt11 (λEF); and human embryonic fibroblast mRNAs

in the directional cloning phagemid (TR4 or HPR). Restriction sites were determined by electrophoretic analysis of the products of single and double digestions. Regions of λ T11 homologous to the *v-fms* or mouse PDGF receptor probes were identified by hybridization as described in Fig. 1. Three restriction fragments (0.95-kbp *Hind*III-*Pst*I, 0.5-kbp *Ava*I-*Sac*I, and 0.35-kbp *Kpn*I-*Xba*I) including regions homologous to the *v-fms* and mouse PDGF receptor probes were subcloned into plasmids and sequenced by the dideoxy chain termination method (45).

Chromosome mapping of the T11 gene. The probe was labeled with all four ^3H -nucleotides (New England Nuclear, Boston, MA) using a modified nick translation kit (Amersham, Arlington Heights, IL) to a specific activity of 2.5×10^7 cpm/ μg DNA. *In situ* hybridization with human metaphases and prometaphases from methotrexate-synchronized peripheral lymphocyte cultures was carried out as previously described (47).

Comparison of mRNA species by Northern blot hybridization. Total or polyadenylated RNA was separated by denaturing gel electrophoresis in formaldehyde (48), transferred to nitrocellulose, and hybridized under stringent

conditions (50% formamide, 0.075M NaCl, 0.75M sodium citrate, at 42°C) with ^{32}P -labeled probes.

Detection of T11 and PDGF-R proteins with peptide antisera. Anti-T11 and anti-PDGF-R sera were obtained following immunization of rabbits with 15 amino acid peptides from the corresponding carboxyl-terminal regions of the predicted receptors. These peptide sequences were less than 50% homologous. cDNA expression plasmids were constructed by introducing the T11 cDNA encompassing nucleotides 1 to 3454 (Fig. 3) or the PDGF-R cDNA encompassing nucleotides 1 to 3939 into the pSV2 gpt vector into which the simian sarcoma virus LTR had been engineered as the promoter (49). About 10^6 COS-1 cells in 10 cm petri dishes were incubated in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum 24 hr prior to transfection. DNA transfection was performed by the calcium phosphate precipitation method (50) 48 hours prior to analysis. Cultures were lysed with staph-A buffer (10 mM sodium phosphate pH7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% SDS, 0.5% deoxycholate, 0.1% aprotinin, 1 mM PMSF, and 1 mM sodium orthovanadate) and clarified by centrifugation at 10,000 x g for 30 min. Proteins (100 μg per lane) were resolved by electrophoresis in 7% SDS-polyacrylamide gels,

transferred to nitrocellulose filters and probed by immunoblot analysis (with or without peptide blocking) using ^{125}I -Protein A (51).

Binding of ^{125}I -labeled human PDGF to receptors on cells. COS-1 cells were plated in 12-well plates and transfected 48 hours before assay as described in Fig. 7. Human PDGF was labeled with ^{125}I by the chloramine-T method to specific activities of 3.7×10^4 cpm/ng (52). The binding of ^{125}I -labeled PDGF isolated from human platelets (53) in the absence or presence of a 50 - 100 fold excess of unlabeled human PDGF (AB) (Collaborative Research), recombinant PDGF-BB (AmGen) or recombinant PDGF-AA (37), was carried out at 4°C for 2 hrs. Unbound ^{125}I -PDGF was removed by four successive washes with binding buffer (DMEM containing 1 mg per ml bovine serum albumin). The cells were then lysed in solubilizing buffer (1% Triton X-100, 20 mM Hepes pH 7.4, 10% [v/v] glycerol), and radioactivity measured with a γ counter.

Tyrosine autophosphorylation of type α and type β PDGF-R gene products. After incubation with PDGF for 5 min at 37°C , cell lysates were immunoprecipitated with anti-peptide antisera. Total cell lysates or immunoprecipitates were analyzed by immunoblotting with antibodies to the receptors

or to phosphotyrosine (anti-P-Tyr) (54). The anti-phosphotyrosine antibodies were preincubated with 10mM phosphotyrosine for blocking.

RESULTS

Detection of a novel human PDGF-R/CSF1-R-related gene. In order to explore novel sequences related to known growth factor receptor genes of the PDGF-R/CSF1-R family, high molecular weight DNAs prepared from human placenta and thymus were digested with *EcoRI* and analyzed by blot hybridization with DNA probes derived from the tyrosine-kinase domains of *v-fms* and the mouse PDGF-R gene (Fig. 1). Under stringent conditions, the *v-fms* probe detected *EcoRI* restriction fragments of 27-kbp and/or 20-kbp, due to the previously reported restriction polymorphism at this locus (8). Under less stringent conditions, several additional fragments of 12-, 6.8-, 5-, 2.7-, 2.2-kbp, which hybridized to the *v-fms* probe, were observed. The corresponding region of the mouse PDGF-R cDNA hybridized with a single 21-kbp fragment under stringent conditions (Fig. 1).

At lower stringency, the same probe detected several additional fragments, some of which had sizes similar to those of the *v-fms*-related fragments described above. Among these, the 12-kbp *EcoRI* fragment hybridized more strongly than the other fragments with both probes. Moreover, some of the smaller bands corresponded

to restriction fragments reported for human *c-kit* (7). Thus, it was decided to clone the 12-kbp *EcoRI* DNA fragment and characterize it more fully.

5 Using the λ EMBL-4 vector system, a genomic library size-selected by sucrose gradients was constructed from *EcoRI*-digested normal human thymus DNA. Fig. 2 shows the restriction map of λ T11 containing a 12-kbp *EcoRI* insert, which hybridized with both *v-fms* and mouse PDGF-R probes only under relaxed but not stringent hybridization conditions. Regions homologous to *v-fms*/PDGF-R tyrosine kinase domains were localized by hybridization to restriction endonuclease digests of λ T11 DNA.

10 Three plasmid subclones containing sequences hybridizing to the 0.95-kbp *HindIII-PstI*, 0.5-kbp *AvaI-SacI*, and 0.35-kbp *KpnI-XbaI* fragments of λ T11 were subjected to nucleotide sequence analysis. Their discrete open reading frames (Fig. 3) showed relatedness to both human *c-fms* and mouse PDGF-R genes, but were readily distinguished from each of these genes (3,6) as well as from *c-kit* (7). The three putative coding regions were each flanked by the AG and GT dinucleotides that border the exons of eukaryotic genes (9).

To assess whether the T11 sequence was transcribed, Northern blot analyses of a variety of cells were performed using a clone of the 0.95-kbp *HindIII*-*Pst*I fragment (pT11-HP) which
5 contained exon (a) (Fig. 2) and lacked human repetitive sequences. Under stringent conditions, a single 6.4-kb RNA transcript was detected in poly(A)+ RNA prepared from normal human fibroblasts (data not shown). This
10 transcript differed in size from previously reported transcripts for the PDGF-R (6), *c-fms* (3) or *c-kit* genes (7). All of these findings indicated that the T11 sequence represented a gene distinct from known members of this
15 subfamily of tyrosine kinase receptors.

cDNA cloning of the novel gene. A normal human fibroblast cDNA library in the Okayama-Berg expression vector was initially screened under stringent conditions using the
20 pT11-HP clone of the 0.9-kbp *HindIII*-*Pst*I fragment of λ T11. One strongly hybridizing clone containing a 3.9-kbp cDNA insert was isolated (Fig.2). This clone, designated pHF1, hybridized to a 6.4-kb transcript in normal human
25 fibroblasts and contained a polyadenylation signal followed by a poly(A) tail at its 3' end. It also contained the coding sequence within the

λT11 DNA and 170 nucleotides related to CSF1-
R-PDGF-R tyrosine kinase domains upstream of exon
(a).

5 The 0.4-kbp 5' end of pHF1 was used to
search for overlapping cDNA clones in a human
infant brain library. Under stringent
conditions, a number of positive clones with
similar restriction maps were isolated (data not
shown). The longest, λHB6, (Fig. 2) was
10 subjected to sequence analysis. A possible ATG
initiation codon was identified within another
clone, λEF17, isolated by screening a M426 human
embryo fibroblast cDNA library in the λgt11
vector with a 0.2-kbp 5' fragment of λHB6 as a
15 probe. The three overlapping clones (pHF1, λHB6
and λEF17) contained the entire coding region in
addition to 138-bp 5' and .3-kbp of 3'
untranslated sequences (Fig. 2).

Two clones, λHB3 and λHB4, that gave
20 weaker signals in plaque hybridization during
screening of the human infant brain library were
also sequenced. These showed close similarity to
the sequence of the mouse PDGF-R cDNA (6).
Moreover, when the 2.0-kbp insert of λHB4 was
25 hybridized to normal human fibroblast RNA, it
detected a transcript of 5.3-kb, consistent with
that of the PDGF-R (6).

No clones containing sequences further upstream from the 5' end of λ HB4 could be obtained by screening the human infant brain cDNA library in λ gt11. This was accomplished by
5 utilizing a M426 human embryo fibroblast cDNA library in a new phagemid vector constructed as described elsewhere (10). By screening this library with a 0.3-kbp 5' subfragment of λ HB3, two overlapping clones, HPR2 and HPR5, were
10 obtained. These contained between them the entire known human PDGF-R coding sequence, its complete 3' untranslated region, and 360 nucleotides of its 5' untranslated region (Fig. 2). A 6.4-kbp cDNA clone (TR4) of the novel
15 related gene was also obtained from this same library by screening with a 5' 0.2-kbp subfragment of λ EF17.

Deduced amino acid sequence establishes the T11 gene as a member of the PDGF-R/CSF1-R subfamily. The complete nucleotide sequence of
20 the 6.4-kbp cDNA of the T11 gene is shown in Figure 3. An open reading frame beginning with a possible ATG initiation codon at nucleotide position 139 extended to a TAA termination codon
25 at position 3406. Although the open reading frame extended further upstream, the putative initiation ATG was flanked by sequences that

fulfill the Kozak criteria for an authentic initiation codon (11). Moreover, the first 23 amino acid stretch displayed properties of a cleavable hydrophobic signal peptide (Fig. 3 & 4). At the 3' end, the open reading frame was followed by ~3-kbp of untranslated sequences. A polyadenylation signal (AATAAA) was located 25 nucleotides upstream from the poly(A) sequence at the 3' end of the cDNA.

10 According to the putative cleavage site for the signal peptide (12), the amino terminus of the mature product was predicted to be glutamine at amino acid 24 followed by 1066 amino acids. This polypeptide sequence with a
15 calculated molecular mass of around 120 kd contained all of the characteristics of a membrane-spanning tyrosine kinase receptor. A hydrophobic segment consisting of 24 amino acids (residues 525 to 548) exhibited characteristics
20 of a receptor transmembrane domain (Fig. 3 & 4). Between the signal peptide and the transmembrane domain, there was structural homology with the extracellular ligand binding domains of the PDGF-R/CSF1-R subfamily. Ten cysteine residues were
25 spaced at the same positions as in the other receptors of this subfamily, and eight potential N-linked glycosylation sites were distributed in its putative extracellular domain (Fig. 3).

The cytoplasmic domain was comprised of a conserved tyrosine kinase region and a hydrophilic carboxyl-terminal tail (Figs. 3 & 4). The tyrosine kinase domain included the consensus ATP binding sequence (residues Gly-X-Gly-X-X-Gly...Lys) and a tyrosine residue at position 849 homologous to the major autophosphorylation site of pp60^{v-src} at position 416 (13). Moreover, the tyrosine kinase was divided into two domains by a hydrophilic inter-kinase sequence as previously shown for *c-fms*/CSF1-R, PDGF-R, and *c-kit* (Fig. 4).

The amino acid homologies of its extracellular domain with those of the PDGF-R, CSF1-R, and *c-kit* were 31%, 18%, and 19% respectively. The two kinase domains of the T11 gene were most homologous to those of the human PDGF receptor (85% and 75%, respectively) as compared with 67 to 70% for *c-fms* and *c-kit* (Fig. 4). Even in the inter-kinase domain, its amino acid sequence was more closely aligned to the PDGF-R with 27% homology compared to 10 and 19% with *c-fms* or *c-kit*. These observations lead to the conclusion that the T11 product was in the PDGF-R/CSF1-R subfamily and most closely related to the PDGF-R.

The deduced amino acid sequence of another cDNA clone (obtained in the same experiment which produced the TR4 cDNA clone) established its product as the known human PDGF receptor. Its sequence corresponded almost completely with the recently published sequence of the known human PDGF receptor (14). A single nucleotide difference changed residue 240 from Asn to Ser. Comparison with the mouse PDGF receptor cDNA amino acid sequence also revealed high similarities throughout all functional domains including the ligand binding domain (79%), transmembrane domain (96%), the juxtamembrane domain (97%), split tyrosine kinase domains (TK1, 99% and TK2, 97%), inter-kinase domain (86%) and carboxyl terminus (85%).

Chromosomal mapping of the T11 gene. To define the new gene with respect to chromosomal location, 104 chromosome spreads were examined by *in situ* hybridization with a pT11-P probe. A total of 136 grains were localized on a 400-band ideogram (Fig. 5). Of the total grains, 50 (37%) were on chromosome 4 with the majority of 45 grains tightly clustered near the acrocentric region of the long arm at bands, q11-12 (Fig 5). A second site of hybridization on chromosome 5q11.1-11.2 consisting of 7 grains accounted for 5% of the total grains (Fig. 5).

The T11 gene probe was also hybridized to chromosomes derived from a Burkitt lymphoma cell line carrying a large abnormal marker chromosome originating from a translocation t1;5 (p22; q23) translocation. There was no detectable labeling of the rearranged chromosome 5 in over 300 spreads examined for the presence of grains at this chromosome. Thus, *in situ* hybridization assigned the T11 gene to chromosome 4 at location q 11-12. This localization places the new gene within the same region as the *c-kit* proto-oncogene (15). The structurally related genes for platelet factor 4, (16), interferon γ -inducible factor; γ IP-10, (17) and melanoma growth stimulatory activity (MGSA) (18) as well as genes for α -feto protein, albumin (19), HPAFP (20), and the gene for *dentinogenesis imperfecta* have been mapped at 4q 11-13 (21).

Expression of transcripts and protein products of the endogenous T11 gene in normal and tumor cells. To investigate the tissue specific expression of the new receptor-like gene, either of the most preferred DNAs of this invention, i. e., the *HindIII-PstI* 0.95-kbp fragment of the T11 genomic clone, or cDNA insert of TR4, was used for Northern blot hybridization experiments. A single 6.4-kb transcript was detected in poly(A)-

containing RNAs of a variety of human tissues and cell lines. As shown in Fig. 6, relatively high levels of the transcript were found in smooth muscle, heart, and human embryo, while human
5 liver and spleen demonstrated undetectable or barely detectable transcripts under these conditions.

Using a probe for the known human PDGF receptor gene, it was noted that the T11 and
10 5.3-kb PDGF-R transcripts appeared to be coexpressed at similar respective levels in each of these same tissues. Human skeletal muscle, fetal brain, placenta as well as cultured fibroblasts and glial cells also expressed high
15 levels of both transcripts (data not shown).

Thus, the new gene and the known PDGF-R gene appeared to be coordinately expressed in normal tissues examined and exhibited a very different pattern from that reported for either
20 *c-fms*/CSF1-R or *c-kit* (3,7).

Expression of the T11 and PDGF-R genes were also compared in human tumor cells. Here, their patterns of expression could be readily distinguished. Several tumor cell lines were
25 found to contain one or the other transcript but not both (Fig. 6C and D).

Antibodies specific for either the novel or known PDGF receptor protein. In an effort to

identify the protein product of the new gene,
antisera to peptides were prepared based on its
predicted sequence. Analogous regions of the
predicted sequence of the known PDGF-R were
5 utilized to generate antisera as well. Initial
efforts to detect specific expression of the T11
gene product utilized M426 embryo fibroblast
cells, from which cDNAs of both receptors had
been isolated. 8387 and A204 cell lines which
10 specifically expressed the PDGF-R or T11 gene
transcripts, respectively were analyzed as well
(Fig. 7A).

Western blot analysis of M426 cells with
antisera (anti-T11) directed against the T11 gene
15 product revealed 180 kd and 160 kd protein
species, which were specifically competed by the
immunizing peptide. The anti-PDGF-R peptide
serum (designated anti-HPR) detected 180 and 165
kd proteins in the same cells. Western blot
20 analysis of 8387 cells revealed 180 and 165 kd
species, which were recognized by the anti-HPR,
but not by anti-T11 serum. Conversely, A204
cells contained 180 and 160 kd species which were
specifically detected by anti-T11, but not
25 recognized by anti-HPR serum.

All of these findings indicated that
these antibodies of this invention were specific
for detection of the homologous receptor gene

product and that T11 gene products were expressed in cells containing its transcript.

Expression of T11 cDNA in a mammalian vector system. As further test of the ability to immunologically detect the T11 gene product as well as to investigate the functional expression of its cDNA, LTR-based expression vectors were constructed for the T11 cDNA encompassing nucleotides 1 to 3454 (Fig. 3) and for the corresponding known PDGF-R cDNA as well.

Transient expression in COS-1 cells led to the specific detection of the T11 gene products as 185 kd and 160 kd species (Fig. 7B) whereas the PDGF-R appeared as 185 kd and 165 kd proteins. The respective lower MW forms of each receptor did not vary in size among the cells analyzed. However, some different sizes of the higher MW species were observed, which were likely due to cell specific differences in glycosylation.

PDGF binding to the T11 product establishes it as a new PDGF-R gene. Because of their structural and deduced amino acid sequence similarities as well as their coexpression by normal cell types known to respond to PDGF, to studies were performed to determine whether the T11 gene product exhibited any functional relationship to the known PDGF-R gene product.

Thus, ^{125}I -labeled human PDGF was incubated with control and transfected COS-1 cells in the presence or absence of unlabeled PDGF isoforms.

As shown in Fig. 8, as much ^{125}I -PDGF specifically bound to COS-1 cells transfected with the new receptor gene as to NIH/3T3 cells. Binding was reduced to the level of non-transfected COS-1 cells by competition with excess human PDGF (predominantly AB), PDGF-BB, or PDGF-AA. Specific binding of ^{125}I -PDGF to COS-1 cells transfected with the PDGF-R cDNA was also observed. In this case, however, binding was competed by human PDGF (i.e., PDGF-AB) and PDGF-BB but not by PDGF-AA (Fig. 8).

Thus, while both T11 gene and PDGF-R gene products bound human PDGF, the pattern of competition by different PDGF isoforms distinguished the two receptors. These results implied that the T11 gene encoded a novel PDGF receptor with different affinities for the three dimeric forms of PDGF. Hence, the T11 receptor gene product was tentatively designated as the type α PDGF-R because PDGF binding was competed by AA as well as BB isoforms, and the product of the previously cloned PDGF receptor was designated as type β .

PDGF isoforms induce different patterns
of autophosphorylation of the novel and known
PDGF receptors. After PDGF binding to its
receptor, a number of molecular events are
5 rapidly triggered *in vivo*, including
phosphorylation of the receptor protein on
tyrosine residues (22). To compare the relative
autophosphorylation of the products of the two
PDGF-R genes by each PDGF isoform, the responses
10 of A204 and 8387 cells that expressed type α and
type β PDGF-R genes, respectively, were analyzed.

As shown in Fig. 9A, immunoblots of A204
cells lysed 5 minutes following ligand exposure
revealed readily detectable and very similar
15 levels of autophosphorylation of a 180 kd
species in response to each of the three PDGF
isoforms. As further evidence that the induced
autophosphorylation was specific to the type α
receptor gene product, ligand stimulated A204
20 cell lysates were first subjected to
immunoprecipitation with anti-type α PDGF-R serum
(anti-T11) followed by immunoblotting with
anti-phosphotyrosine serum. By this approach, it
was firmly establish that the 180 kd type α PDGF
25 receptor was phosphorylated on its tyrosine with
similar intensity in response to each of the
three ligands.

Exposure of 8387 cells, which expressed only the type β PDGF gene product, to the same amount of each respective PDGF isoform revealed a very different pattern of receptor

5 autophosphorylation. Here, PDGF-BB induced the highest level of autophosphorylation of the 180 kd species specifically recognized by anti-type β PDGF-R serum (anti-HPR), and human PDGF induced detectable autophosphorylation as well (Fig. 9B).
10 In contrast, PDGF-AA induced no detectable phosphorylation.

Thus, while PDGF-AB and PDGF-BB triggered both receptors, the much stronger response of the β type receptor to the BB
15 homodimer as well as its lack of detectable response to the AA homodimer readily distinguished the receptors functionally.

To investigate the pattern of autophosphorylation of the two receptors by
20 different PDGF isoforms in the same cells, NIH/3T3 cells were first triggered by different ligands followed by immunoprecipitation with either anti-type α or β PDGF-R serum. The immunoprecipitated receptor proteins were then
25 analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-phosphotyrosine serum.

As shown in Fig. 9C, the 180 kd protein immunoprecipitated by the type α PDGF-R antiserum

was phosphorylated by all three dimeric forms of PDGF. In contrast, the 180 kd phosphoprotein immunoprecipitated by the anti-type β receptor serum was detected only after human PDGF-AB or PDGF-BB stimulation. Thus, the patterns of response to different PDGF ligands remained receptor-specific in at one example of nontransformed cells naturally expressing both PDGF-R genes.

10 Type α PDGF receptor is more efficient
in stimulating DNA synthesis in response to PDGF
isoform AB. The expression of the two receptors
in other fibroblast lines was analyzed next.
Western blotting analysis (data not shown)
15 revealed significant variations in the ratio of
the two receptors among the lines analyzed.
Whereas mouse fibroblasts expressed similar
levels of type α and type β receptors, human
fibroblasts such as AG1523 or M413 expressed
20 relatively lower levels of the type α receptor
than either mouse fibroblasts or M426 human
fibroblasts.

 Saturating amounts of PDGF-AB or PDGF-BB
yielded similar increases in DNA synthesis in
25 each of the cell lines (data not shown).
However, submaximal doses of PDGF-AB and PDGF-BB
showed significant differences in the levels of
mitogenic activity observed (Fig. 10). Whereas,

NIH/3T3, BALB/3T3 and M426 cells responded with comparable efficiency to PDGF-BB and AB, PDGF-AB was significantly less active on AG1523 or M413 cells. Their lesser mitogenic responsiveness to PDGF-AB seemed to correlate with the high ratio of β to α receptors in these cells detected immunologically.

Taken together with the dose-response curves observed for phosphorylation of the two receptors in NIH/3T3 cells by the different PDGF isoforms, these results strongly suggested preferential triggering of the type α receptor, in the presence of the type β receptor, by PDGF-AB, as well as by PDGF-AA.

Independent expression of two PDGF gene types after introduction of cDNAs into PDGF receptor-free hematopoietic cells. To investigate the biological and biochemical responses specific to each PDGF-R gene product, systems were developed to look at this receptor in cells in which each type could be independently introduced and expressed. These systems were based on the 32D cell line, a mouse hematopoietic cell line normally dependent on Il-3 for survival and proliferation. Recent studies have established that introduction of an expression vector for the EGF-R in these cells

led to effective coupling with EGF mitogenic signal transduction pathways.

The mammalian expression vectors described above, carrying the gpt selectable marker, was used to transfect 32D cells with either the type α or the type β PDGF-R cDNAs by electroporation. Transformants were selected using medium supplemented with mycophenolic acid. After 2 weeks in the selective medium, viable cultures were obtained.

Cultures designated 32D- α R and 32D- β R, respectively were subjected to Northern blot analysis, as described above. Neither type of PDGF-R mRNA was detectable in the parental 32D cells even under relaxed hybridization conditions, which conditions enabled detection of the respective mouse PDGF-R gene transcripts in NIH/3T3 fibroblasts. In contrast, 32- α R and 32D- β R transfectants expressed abundant transcripts specific to the human type α and type β PDGF-R genes, respectively. When membranes lysates of these transfectant were subjected to immunoblot analysis, anti-type α PDGF-R peptide serum detected 180 kd and 160 kd protein species in 32D- α R but not in 32D- β cells. Moreover, these proteins were specifically competed by the immunizing peptide. Conversely, 32D- β R cells contained 180-200 kd and a 165 kd species which

were specifically detected by the anti-type β PDGF-R serum. None of these proteins species were detectable in control 32D cells.

Type α receptor has a higher binding
5 affinity for the PDGF-AB isoform. PDGF-BB binding was compared in 32D- α R or 32D- β R transfectants, and both showed high affinity binding. Scatchard analysis revealed about two thousand receptors per cell with a single
10 affinity class of binding sites. The K_d s were 0.4 nM and 0.5 nM for 32D- α R and 32D- β R cells, respectively (Fig. 11). 32D- α R cells also showed a high binding affinity ($K_d = 0.4$ nM) for
15 125 I-PDGF-AB, exhibiting the same number of binding sites as for PDGF-BB.

In contrast, however, 32D- β R cells revealed ten times less binding capacity for 125 I- PDGF-AB than did 32D- α R cells. Thus, standardized on the basis of their similar
20 binding of PDGF-BB, the type β receptor showed a strikingly lower affinity for PDGF-AB.

Common biological functions
independently triggered by type α and β PDGF gene
products. Mitogenesis and chemotaxis are among
25 the most well characterized responses of fibroblasts to PDGF. Thus, whether 32D- α R or β R lines mediated either of these biological responses was investigated.

Growth of 32D cells is normally strictly dependent on IL-3, and deprivation of IL-3 from the medium led to the rapid loss of viability both of the transfectants and the control 32D cells. As shown in Figure 12, PDGF-BB was able to couple efficiently with mitogenic signal transduction pathways and abrogate IL-3 dependence in a similar dose dependent manner in both transfectants, but had no effect in control 32D cells. Thus, the presence of either type α or β PDGF-R was both necessary and sufficient for the mitogenic response to PDGF BB.

However, whereas, the type α receptor containing 32D cells were as responsive to PDGF-AB as to PDGF-BB, PDGF-AB elicited a significantly lesser DNA synthesis response in 32D- β R cells (Figure 12).

These findings were confirmed by analysis of colony-formation in semi-solid agar containing medium. Both transfectants formed colonies readily in PDGF-BB, supplemented medium but only 32D- α R cells did so in medium supplemented with PDGF-AB (data not shown). Thus, the mitogenic responses observed with both 32D- α R and β R transfectants correlated well with the binding properties of the same PDGF isoforms to α and β receptors expressed by each cell line, respectively.

To address whether chemotaxis was specifically mediated by either type α or β PDGF receptors, a chemotaxis assay was employed using the modified Boyden chamber technique well known in the art. While 32D cells lacking PDGF receptors did not respond to PDGF-AB or PDGF-BB, PDGF-BB was chemotactic for both α and β receptor expressing transfectants. PDGF-AB was relatively more active on 32D- α R cells (Fig. 13).

Thus, each PDGF receptor independently coupled with both mitogenic and chemotaxis signalling pathways inherently present in 32D cells. Moreover, these biological functions were triggered according to the relative binding abilities of PDGF isoforms to either receptor.

Inositol lipid metabolism and cytosolic Ca^{2+} mobilization coupling with independently reconstituted receptors. Recent investigations have suggested an important role of receptor-mediated turnover of inositol lipids resulting in the increase of second messengers such as intracellular free calcium and diacylglycerol in the transduction of the PDGF-induced mitogenic signal. Thus, the effects of PDGF-AB and PDGF-BB on inositol lipid metabolism and intracellular free Ca^{2+} ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$) were studied in type α and type β PDGF-R containing 32D cells.

The accumulation of radioactive inositol phosphates was measured after prelabelling cultures with ^3H -myoinositol and challenge with PDGF isoforms at 37°C in the presence of LiCl ,
5 according to methods well known in the art. $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ was measured in 32D cells in suspension, loaded with the fluorescent $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ indicator fura-2, and treated with PDGFs in the complete incubation medium.

10 Figure 14 shows the effect of PDGF-AB and PDGF-BB on inositol phosphate formation and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ in type α and type β PDGF-R 32D cells. As shown in Figure 14 (panel A), both PDGF-BB and PDGF-AB were able to elicit dose-dependent
15 accumulation of inositol phosphates, with similar relative potencies. The same isoforms exerted almost identical increases in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ in type α PDGF-R 32D cells as wells (Figure 14, panel A, insert). PDGF-BB also markedly stimulated
20 inositol lipid metabolism and intracellular Ca^{2+} mobilization in type β PDGF-R 32D cells, establishing the very similar biochemical responses elicited by these distinct PDGF-R gene products in 32D cells in response to PDGF-BB.

25 Figure 14 (panel B) shows that PDGF-AB was significantly less effective than PDGF-BB in promoting inositol phosphate accumulation in type β PDGF-R 32D cells. Detectable release of

inositol phosphate occurred only at high PDGF-AB concentration. Similarly, PDGF-AB elicited little or no $(Ca^{2+})_i$ response.

DISCUSSION

The present studies demonstrate the existence of two distinct human PDGF receptor genes. Further, they illustrate the detection and isolation of two principal embodiments of this invention, the genomic and cDNA clones of a novel gene within the PDGF-R/CSF1-R subfamily. This gene is divergent from but most closely related to the known PDGF-R gene. Under conditions of natural expression as well as following introduction of this novel cDNA into appropriate target cells by means of an expression vector, functional responses of its product to PDGF were demonstrated at concentrations that bound and triggered tyrosine phosphorylation of the previously identified PDGF receptor.

Standardized on the basis of similar levels of tyrosine phosphorylation (and several other activities) of PDGF-R gene product induced by a constant amount of PDGF, the new receptor was shown to respond better than the known PDGF-R to the AA homodimer. Conversely, the known receptor responded preferentially to the BB homodimer. Based upon the present findings, the new gene product has been designated as the type α PDGF-R and the previously identified PDGF-R gene product as the type β receptor.

The AA homodimer failed to stimulate detectable tyrosine phosphorylation of the β type receptor in NIH/3T3 cells and yet is capable of inducing DNA synthesis in this cell line (37).

5 This indicated that the α type receptor can couple with mitogenic signalling pathways in fibroblasts. The β type receptor has also been reported to couple PDGF with mitogenic pathways (28). These results suggested that both receptor

10 gene products can induce a proliferative response.

The ability, according to compositions and methods of this invention, to stably introduce expression vectors for these distinct

15 receptor genes into a null cell made it possible to confirm this suggestion in human cells. Further studies in such cells showed that other known PDGF functions including chemotaxis (38), membrane ruffling (39), as well as

20 transmodulation of a heterologous receptor (40), are not specifically mediated by either type α or β PDGF-R gene products.

Such knowledge is a necessary prelude to understanding and diagnosis of disease conditions

25 affecting these PDGF functions, which can be furthered through additional practice of the present invention.

Among human tumor cell lines analyzed using methods of this invention, several were observed in which there was discoordinate expression of the two PDGF-R genes. Moreover, representative tumor cell lines expressing mRNA from either gene were shown to contain the respective protein product, which bound and was phosphorylated on tyrosine in response to PDGF.

The availability of the immunologic as well as the molecular probes of this invention, specific for either type α or type β PDGF-R gene products, makes it possible to identify human tumors in which expression of the PDGF-A or B chain, in combination with either receptor gene, may be causally implicated in tumor development. At the same time, the availability of reagents for specific detection of each type of component is a critical aid in efforts to implicate the abnormal expression of this complex growth factor-receptor network in other chronic disease states such as arteriosclerosis, arthritis, and fibrotic diseases (23)

Additional observations of scientific import have already been provided by the practice of the invention as herein described. For instance, the chromosomal location of the novel gene, established using DNAs of this invention, provides insight into the possible evolution of

this receptor gene family. Thus, the chromosomal localization places the type α PDGF receptor gene on chromosome 4 at 4q 11-12, the same region as *c-kit* (15), a related receptor-like gene. Other
5 genes of this subfamily have been localized on chromosome 5. These include the type β PDGF-R mapped at 5q 23-31 (6) and the CSF1-R gene, on 5q 33.2-33.3 (29). There is evidence for a common ancestral origin of human chromosomes 4 and 5
10 (30). These related receptor genes cluster near the centromere on 4q or at the distal half of 5q. Thus, if the progenitor(s) of these genes were confined to a single ancestral chromosome, the breakup of linkage might be explained by an
15 inversion within the long arm.

The present studies also establish that different PDGF-R genes encode two receptor types, with binding properties evidently independent of the cell in which each is expressed. The
20 implications of this observation can be better appreciated in light of knowledge about other receptor systems.

There is emerging evidence that as more complex organisms have evolved, mechanisms of
25 intercellular communication have increased in complexity as well. The related EGF and TGF $_{\alpha}$ molecules interact with similar affinities with a common receptor, the EGF receptor (31).

Different patterns of developmental and tissue expression of these growth factors (32) presumably account for their present existence.

There are increasing examples of evolutionarily divergent receptor genes as well. The products of such genes can respond to completely different ligands, as is the case of PDGF and CSF-1 receptors (33,34), or, alternatively, to related ligands, as with the IGF-I and insulin receptors (35). Here the developmental and tissue specific expression of both the receptors and their ligands, as well as the biochemical responses triggered, have evolved with the complexity of the organism.

As demonstrated in the present studies, the responses mediated by PDGF not only involve different dimeric forms of the related ligands encoded by two genes, but two related genes encoding different PDGF receptors as well. In addition to their differences in tissue specific expression (34,36), the two PDGF gene products are known to differ in their relative secretory capacity. The PDGF-A chain is much more efficiently released than is the B chain (37), giving the former the possibility of acting at greater distances.

In view of the present evidence of coordinate expression of the two PDGF receptor

genes in all normal tissues so far examined,
their tissue specific expression may not be a
major determinant of their functions. However,
application of the methods of the present
5 invention to a comprehensive survey of the
expression of each receptor type during embryonic
development and in homogeneous normal cell
populations may uncover evidence of differential
regulation.

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For purposes of completing the background description and present disclosure, each of the published articles, patents and patent applications heretofore identified in this
5 specification are hereby incorporated by reference into the specification.

The foregoing invention has been described in some detail for purposes of clarity and understanding. It will also be obvious that
10 various combinations in form and detail can be made without departing from the scope of the invention.